



## News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Joe DiLaura 317/232-3396

Josh Richardson 317/232

### **Grants awarded to twenty-seven schools for FIRST Robotics program**

INDIANAPOLIS (December 18, 2006) – Twenty-seven Indiana high schools or postsecondary institutions are receiving grants totaling \$114,500 that will be used to fund teams competing in the FIRST Robotics program, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

An international program, FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. The program's goal is to help young people recognize the opportunity, power, and joy of solving problems through science, technology, and engineering.

"We fully recognize the importance of engineering and scientific innovation to the economic future of our country," said Andrew Penca, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "It has been estimated that 80 percent of today's jobs now require problem-solving and analytical thinking. Jobs requiring complex skills have grown at three times the rate of employment in general. Our education pipeline is simply not producing enough talented individuals needed for today's competitive economy, he said."

"A strong education system that encourages and drives engineering and science innovation is a strategic asset to any country and that is what we hope to do with this grant program," Penca said.

One of the underlying goals of the FIRST robotics program is to transform culture, making science, math, engineering, and technology as cool for kids as sports are today. This program helps students develop their science, technology, entrepreneurship and math skills so important for the world of work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Participants on the FIRST robotics teams also develop skills such as brainstorming, real-world teamwork, dedicated mentoring, managing timelines and meeting deadlines. The program also involves partnerships with business and industry officials as the students often work side by side with engineers solving complex engineering challenges.

The grants announced today were funded from the federal Carl D. Perkins Technical and Vocational Act of 1998.

The state is promoting programs in the STEM areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Earlier this week, Governor Daniels announced the awarding of sixteen \$50,000 planning grants to help high schools prepare their students for post-secondary success in STEM study and work. Those grants were made possible by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Indiana Secondary Market for Education Loans (ISM).

For more information on the FIRST Robotics program, check the following websites US FIRST Robotics [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org), Indiana FIRST Robotics [www.indianafirst.org](http://www.indianafirst.org) or contact Terri Schulz at 317-233-5663 or [tschulz@dwd.in.gov](mailto:tschulz@dwd.in.gov).

Schools receiving grants and the amount of each grant:

|   |                       |            |
|---|-----------------------|------------|
| Ball State University/ Delaware County School Corp                      | Muncie                | \$3,000.00 |
| Carmel High School  | Carmel                | \$2,500.00 |
| Center Grove High School  | Greenwood             | \$3,000.00 |
| C4 Columbus Area Career Connection                                      | Columbus              | \$7,000.00 |
| Crown Point High School   | Crown Point           | \$5,000.00 |
| Decatur Discovery Academy   | Indianapolis          | \$7,000.00 |
| Greenfield High School/Morristown Jr. Sr. High School                   | Greenfield/Morristown | \$2,500.00 |
| Hammond High School   | Hammond               | \$4,000.00 |
| Huntington North High School and 4-H Robotics                           | Huntington            | \$7,000.00 |
| I.U.P.U.I/ Indianapolis Area Schools                                    | Indianapolis          | \$5,000.00 |
| Jefferson High School   | Lafayette             | \$7,000.00 |
| Kokomo High School  | Kokomo                | \$2,500.00 |
| Anderson High School/ Highland High School/<br>Ebbertt Education Center | Anderson              | \$2,500.00 |
| McKenzie Career Center  | Lawrence              | \$3,500.00 |
| Pike High School  | Indianapolis          | \$3,500.00 |
| New Prairie High School   | New Carlisle          | \$5,000.00 |
| North White Jr./Sr. High School   | Monon                 | \$7,000.00 |
| Penn High School  | Mishawaka             | \$2,500.00 |

|   |                |            |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Perry Meridian High School                            | Indianapolis   | \$2,500.00 |
| Harrison High School                                  | West Lafayette | \$3,000.00 |
| Southport High School                                 | Indianapolis   | \$7,000.00 |
| South Bend Comm. Schools/LaSalle Intermediate Academy | South Bend     | \$4,500.00 |
| Taylor Community High School                          | Kokomo         | \$7,000.00 |
| Walker Career Center/MSD Warren Township              | Indianapolis   | \$2,500.00 |
| West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School                      | West Lafayette | \$2,500.00 |
| Western High School                                   | Russiaville    | \$2,500.00 |
| Wheeler High School                                   | Valparaiso     | \$3,500.00 |